

## GERMANY REPEATS ASSURANCES GIVEN IN LUSITANIA CASE

Not Modified by Order to  
Treat Armed Merchant-  
men as War Vessels.

GOES INTO OPERATION  
AT MIDNIGHT TO-NIGHT

Charges Britain With Instruct-  
ing Shipmasters to Attack  
Submarines.

PROOF AWAITED FROM BERLIN

U. S. Will Not Act if American Is  
Injured on Offensively Armed  
Vessels.

WASHINGTON, February 28.—Germany, in a formal note presented by Count von Bernstorff to Secretary Lansing to-day, reiterates assurances regarding the future conduct of submarine warfare given in the Lusitania case; declares those assurances have not been modified by the memorandum setting forth its intention to treat armed merchantmen of the enemy as auxiliary cruisers after midnight to-morrow, and attempts to justify the issuance of the memorandum by presenting evidence and assertions designed to show that the British government has instructed merchantmen to use their armament for purposes of attack in violation of assurances given to the United States.

Later it was said at the State Department that while the United States stood unflinchingly for the right of a merchant ship to carry guns for defensive purposes, it was not now, and never has been, contending that Americans could travel with immunity on ships having orders to act offensively. It was said that if the claims were sustained, the fact would have an important bearing upon the future attitude of this government.

A copy of the so-called British instructions, which were handed to Ambassador Gerard in Berlin, and which are considered by Secretary Lansing to be the all-important element in the situation as it stands at present, had not arrived. Pending their receipt and a subsequent decision regarding the attitude of the United States, the State Department is prepared to consider any overt act attempted by the commanders of the German and Austrian submarines in the light of the facts. It was authoritatively stated that the department would not act upon the case of an American who sustained injuries aboard a vessel which it could be definitely established to be offensively armed.

## BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO COMBAT ALLEGATIONS

Authoritative information obtained here to-night indicated that the British government probably would combat allegations of Germany that British ships armed offensively for defense are in reality armed for offensive purposes. It was said that British masters had not been instructed to hunt or sink submarines; that, on the contrary, they had been told to do everything possible to avoid a hostile encounter, and that only in the event of a hostile encounter approaching without warning, or torpedoes were the skippers authorized to use their guns.

All things considered, the State Department is understood to feel that the possibility is more or less remote of difficulties arising in the near future as a result of the new German and Austrian policy. The belief of officials that commanders of German and Austrian submarines will not attack without warning armed merchant vessels upon which there may be Americans, was strengthened by the declaration in the German note received to-day, according to which the British Ambassador, Zwielfick, charged of the Austrian Embassy here, that the orders issued to the naval commanders were so formulated as to prevent the destruction of enemy liners "on account of their armament, unless such armament is proved."

In the note presented by Count von Bernstorff several references are made to declarations of the United States in the previous correspondence, in the Lusitania case. Those were strong indications that the United States administration was inclined to reason that the representation of certain expressions without the text in which they appeared, holding that in doing so the German government is withholding the attitude of this government. It is even argued that should the United States reply to the note presented to-day, it may take occasion to correct this.

## TO BE CONSIDERED

BY PRESIDENT TO-DAY

The communication from Germany probably will be considered by President Wilson and his Cabinet to-morrow, and official indication regarding it is expected soon thereafter.

The note is the latest reiteration of the previous pledges which were given on September 1 and on October 5 last year for the safety of unresisting ships, and then goes on to say the German government does not believe those assurances have been modified by the new policy.

During the negotiations over the Lusitania, it says, no mention was made of armed merchantmen, and that the United States in one of its notes on the Lusitania mentioned armed merchantmen. Attention then is called to the assurances previously given, in which it is stated that liners will not be sunk without warning, provided they do not offer resistance. Attention also is called to the statement of the American government in its notice to port authorities that the presence of armament on board a merchant vessel creates the assumption that the vessel is armed for offense.

It is stated that a submarine commander cannot be expected to warn an enemy merchantman which has a right

## GORDON RENEWS CONRAD PROPOSAL

Louisa Delegate Offers Amend-  
ment Making Attorney-Gen-  
eral Commissioner.

AGAINST CREATING OFFICE

Would Have All Whisky Ship-  
ments Made Through Central  
Office in Charge of State.

Amendments to the Mapp prohibition bill, offered at the public hearing on the measure yesterday before the House Committee on Moral and Social Welfare, promise to stage in the lower house as determined a fight on some of the major provisions as developed in its stormy passage through the Senate.

The first amendment sent to the desk, offered by Delegate Gordon, member of the committee, and a recognized "dry" leader, makes the Attorney-General commissioner of prohibition, following on this point almost the exact language of the amendment championed in the upper house by Senator Conrad. It was given prompt and earnest endorsement by Delegate Love, another member of the committee, who urged it as the plan that will cause the smallest amount of friction.

## WANTS SPECIAL AGENT TO SUPERVISE SHIPMENTS

A second amendment offered by Delegate Gordon provides for the appointment of a special agent by and under the immediate direction of the ex officio commissioner of prohibition, through whom individuals desiring to take advantage of the provisions for a minimum monthly supply of intoxicants shall make all their purchases.

Instead of allowing each person to order his monthly supply from a non-resident dealer, to be checked up as to frequency and quantity by the delivery office of the common carrier, the Gordon amendment would require such persons to place their whisky, wine and beer orders with the special agent, whose office would at all times have on file accurate information as to the date of the applicant's last purchase, and who would maintain a general supervision of the liquor traffic as far as it is authorized by the Mapp bill.

## SAYS STATE SHOULD GUARANTEE ITS PURITY

Delegate Love joined Mr. Gordon on the agency proposition, looking upon this device as necessary to protect the state against the flood of "cile concoctions" which he said will be supplied to its citizens by unscrupulous dealers. If the consumer is to be restricted to one quart of whisky a month, he said, it is entirely proper that the state should provide machinery for guaranteeing the purity of that product.

The committee met from 2:30 o'clock until 4, and took a recess of two hours. It met again at 4 o'clock, and continued its session until 6 o'clock, adjourning without reporting the bill. The committee will hold another meeting at 2 o'clock this afternoon, with the probability that a report will be agreed upon before adjournment.

Elder makers from the fruit-growing sections registered a strong protest with the committee against the strictures of the Mapp bill on this industry. The act as passed by the Senate prohibits the manufacture for sale of cider containing more than one-half of 1 per cent of alcohol.

## BAD FAITH IS CHARGED IN CIDER PROVISIONS

Professor W. B. Allwood, of Albemarle County, looked upon the cider provision as an act of bad faith on the part of prohibition leaders who sought support for the enabling act in September, 1914, on the strength of the promise implied, if not actually expressed, that the manufacture and sale of cider would in no way be interfered with when the Legislature of 1916 drew up the full prohibition program. In now undertaking virtually to kill this industry, he said, the prohibitionists have taken an unfair advantage of the apple growers, who realize a large revenue from the sale of their fruit, and full and full fruit, and the owners and operators of cider mills, who have much money invested in this business.

Professor Allwood was closely questioned by members of the committee, particularly by Chairman Jordan, as to the intoxicating effect of cider, as given alcoholic strengths. When pure and undistilled with preservatives, said Professor Allwood, cider, with as wholesome beverage, far less harmful in its effects than coffee. It is the product viciously compounded with adulterants that is sold for cider, he said, which is responsible for the drunkenness that is unjustly attributed to the pure juice of the apple.

## HAS STUDIED CONDITIONS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

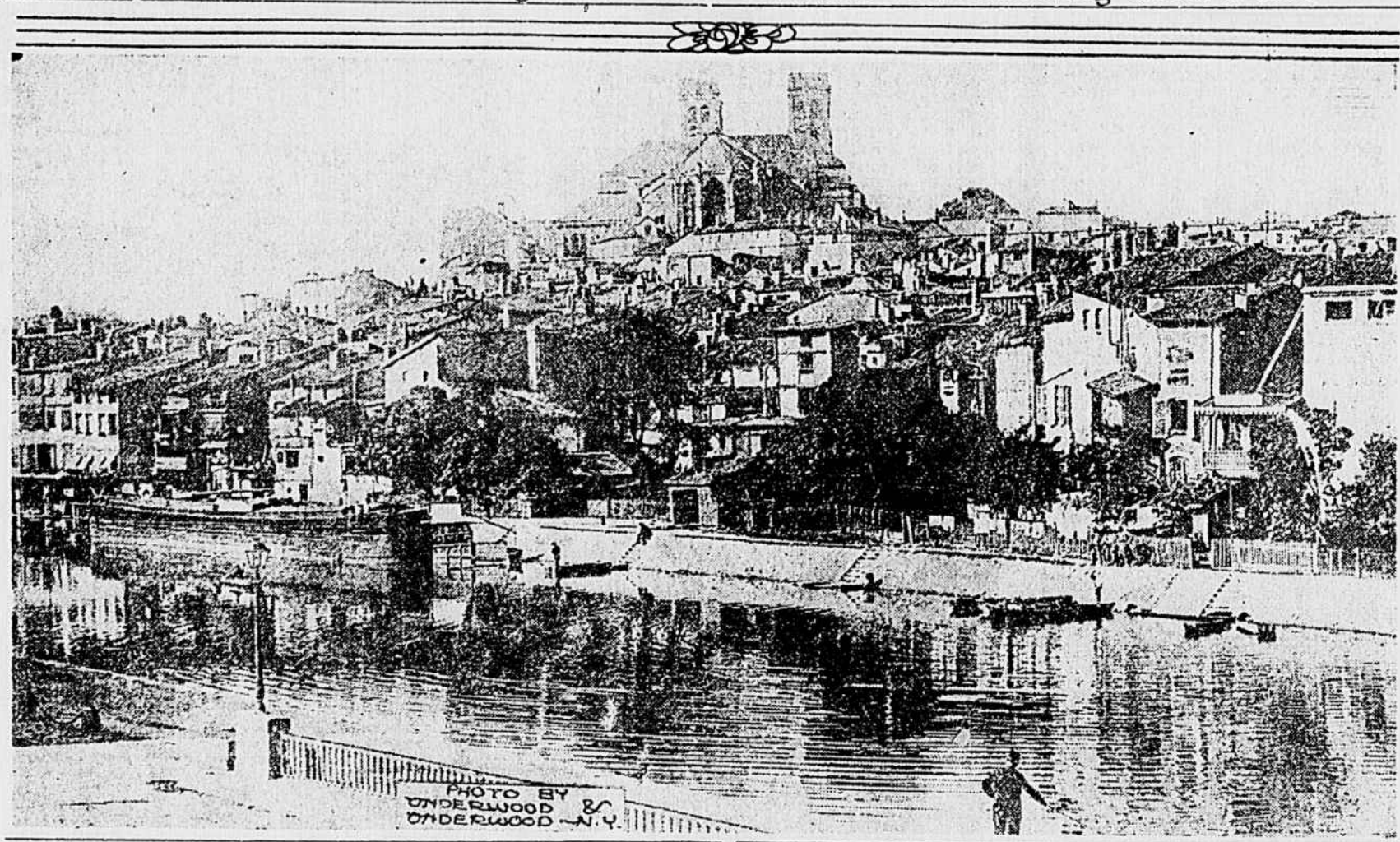
The speaker told of his study of the drink problem in Europe and of his conclusion that in countries like Germany and France, where beer and light wines are served on the table and consumed almost from infancy, the drink evil is by no means as pronounced as it is in America and England. He had no sympathy with compulsory prohibition.

"Then you are not opposed to the cider provisions of this bill alone—you are against the whole bill, aren't you?" asked Delegate Moss, of the committee. "You are an optimist, and believe that the world is getting better if let alone."

"Yes, the world will get better if you'll give it a chance—if you don't legislate so much," replied Professor Allwood.

J. C. Martin and J. R. Perryman, of Charlottesville, elder and vineyard manufacturers, told the committee that they would be unable to continue their business under the bill as it stood, since it was a practical impossibility

## Verdun, French Fortress Against Which Germans Are Directing Great Drive



A View of the City of Verdun, on the Meuse River, in France.

## SENATE OPENS DEBATE ON CO-ORDINATE COLLEGE

Brilliant Argument For and Against  
Bill, Without Decisive  
Action.

## ADDISON OFFERS AMENDMENT

Wants Normal School Board to In-  
vestigate and Report on Feasibil-  
ity of Turning One of Those Insti-  
tutions Into Standard College.

Sentiment in the Senate for establishing a college for women near Charlottesville, co-ordinate with the University of Virginia, will be put to the test early in the debate to-day, when Senator Addison, of Lynchburg, will offer an amendment to the Early bill directing the State Normal School Board to investigate the advisability of expanding one of the normal schools into a standard college with a four-year course and report its findings to the next General Assembly.

Supporting the prohibition prohibition bill as a special order on the Senate calendar, the measure designed to give the women of the Commonwealth equal opportunity with their more fortunate brothers of receiving the collegiate training offered by the State's premier institution of learning was the subject yesterday of a brilliant forensic encounter between Senator Aubrey E. Strode, of Amherst, who is one of the copurators of the bill, and his versatile deskmate, Senator Addison.

## DEBATE SHOWS NO TEST OF STRENGTH

Debate lasted throughout the day without the first test of strength, the Senate adjourning at 6 o'clock, with Senator Addison still holding the floor. It is not likely that the argument will be concluded until late in the afternoon to-day. Senator Early, sponsor for the measure, has yet to enter the debate in his behalf.

Of wide interest throughout the State, the first day's argument on the measure attracted an overflow crowd to the gallery and the floor of the Senate. Women from every section of the Commonwealth—high school girls with visions of a brilliant career at the fountainhead of the States' public school system and stately matrons with ambitious plans for the future of yet heedless daughters—stormed the halls of the upper branch of the General Assembly to watch the tide of battle.

Forfeited of the dignified decorum that characterizes the proceedings of the Virginia State Senate, the crowd broke into grateful applause when Senator Strode, in the midst of an eloquent appeal for the passage of the bill, paused to pay tribute to Mrs. Beverly E. Munford, who has been untiring in her efforts to pilot the measure to success.

## PAYS TRIBUTE TO WORK OF MRS. E. B. MUNFORD

"At the very outset," he said, "it was the good fortune of those who propounded this measure to attract and to enlist the active interest of a member of that sex which it was peculiarly designed to serve, and a sex whose welfare can be touched at no point without affecting the common welfare of us all. Since then, with what beautiful tact, with what splendid intelligence, with what persevering industry, with what consecration to a high ideal she has carried on this contest, I need not remind those who know her."

"Long after the names of any of us shall have been forgotten, the women of Virginia will bear in grateful memory the name of Mary Brannen Munford, who, as mother, wife and citizen, by the bright example of her useful life, has adorned the annals of this Commonwealth; and may we not say with full assurance at the outset that this proposition, sponsored by her, lacks no element of true woman-

## WANTS TO KNOW WHY OLD MEN WERE LAID OFF

Finance Committee Declines to  
Shoulder Onus of Sweeping  
Reductions.

## MAY NOT HAVE VOTED RIGHT

Administrators Decline to Attend  
Meeting, but Send Written State-  
ment Concerning Expenditures.  
Take Up Bond Issue Friday Night.

Declining to appear last night before the special meeting of the Finance Committee, called to try to establish a more harmonious relation between the board and the committee, the Administrative Board sent a letter explaining why, with its alleged limited appropriation, it had been forced to discharge twenty-five men from the Water Department, and in its absence was severely arraigned by most of the members of the committee.

C. C. Jones declared vehemently that he was shocked at the attitude of the board in failing to co-operate with the Finance Committee and to co-ordinate its efforts towards the solution of a problem that threatened to become more vexing.

"If it comes to a question between the City Council and the Finance Committee on the one side and the Administrative Board on the other, let the people decide the issue. If, for one, am not afraid to leave all matters in their hands," Councilman Seaton and Alderman Workman followed in like strain, but Councilman Fred H. Powell was disposed to lay part of the blame on the City Council, saying that it had decreased its revenue \$50,000 by lowering the price of gas, and that it had had an opportunity to reduce the membership of the Administrative Board, and thus save the city other large sums.

## DEFENDS ITS ACTION IN WRITTEN STATEMENT

In its letter to the committee, the Administrative Board, based its action in discharging twenty-five men from the Water Department on the grounds that there would be otherwise an expenditure of \$100,000 for the pay-roll account for the accomplishment of work amounting to \$44,000, and that if the men were replaced there would result the startling situation of a pay roll of \$123,000 for the execution of \$44,000 worth of work, including the purchase of all necessary material. Answers to the board's statement by the committee were made categorically.

The letter follows:

"February 28, 1916.

"The Administrative Board having received an invitation from the sub-committee of your committee to be present at a meeting of the committee to be held this night concerning the appropriation made for the Water Department, and especially the deficiency now existing in the pay-roll account by reason of the curtailment of the appropriation to the board to inform you that, after duly considering the matter, they have concluded that their presence would be unnecessary, and they have deemed it wiser to communicate with you in writing as follows:

"The appropriation made by the Council for general expenses of the Water Department was \$80,000 and the appropriation for pay roll was \$100,000. It appears to the board, after careful examination of all the facts in the case, that approximately 45 per cent of the \$80,000 appropriated for expenses would be consumed by the fixed charges for maintenance and operation of the Settling Basins alone. This would leave about \$34,000 for the general expense account of the Water Works, which would include, of course, all the necessary expenses for extension, maintenance and repairs of the entire supply system of the city, and produces this unreasonable situation: the expenditure of a pay roll of \$100,000 for the accomplishment of work

(Continued on Fifth Page.)

## FELIX DIAZ TO LAUNCH REVOLUTION IN MEXICO

Hopes to Lead Troops of His Na-  
tive State of Oaxaca Against  
Carrazza.

## ELUDES U. S. FEDERAL AGENTS

Leaves New Orleans for Havana to  
Join Some of His Countrymen.  
Nephew of Former President and  
Friend of Huerta.

WASHINGTON, February 28.—Felix Diaz, who has been watched for several months by Department of Justice agents because of suspected activities in violation of American neutrality, apparently has left the United States for Mexico with the intention of launching a new revolution against the Carranza de facto government. Information reaching officials here indicates that he hopes to organize and lead the troops of his native State of Oaxaca and such other forces in Southern Mexico as he can gather about him.

General Diaz left New Orleans on Friday for Havana, where several Mexicans whose names have been associated with his in reports of another revolutionary movement were supposed to be awaiting him. Theodore Tscheda, a former Governor of Vera Cruz, and General Aureliano Blanquet, War Minister under Huerta, were reported to be among them.

Although Diaz eluded the Federal agents detailed to watch him, Department of Justice officials said to-night that, since no evidence warranting his arrest had been found, and as he left the country according to reports, as a private citizen of Mexico and not as a leader of any organized revolutionary movement, nothing probably could have been done to detain him.

## NO DIRECT EVIDENCE DEVELOPED AGAINST HIM

General Diaz, a nephew of the former Mexican President of that name, has been absent from Mexico since Huerta, whom he helped establish, in power, sent him abroad on a diplomatic mission. Most of this time he has spent in the United States, and, although he was suspected of being connected with the revolutionary plot for which Huerta and several others were indicted, no direct evidence against him ever developed.

Oaxaca, where Diaz is expected to launch his movement, is the only state that has held aloof during the fighting of the past two years. Led by state officials, the people declared their independence, and Carranza and other leaders were told that the state would be glad to resume its place in the union whenever any one demonstrated that he had restored a stable central government.

After Carranza's recognition by the foreign governments, he chose not to parley with the people of Oaxaca, demanding that they accept his government unconditionally. It is towards this nucleus of organized resistance that Diaz is said to be moving, accompanied by Lee Christmas, an American widely known throughout Central America because of his participation in revolutionary enterprises.

## DOUBT DIAZ'S ABILITY TO GET WAR SUPPLIES

With Oaxaca as a base, it is said Diaz might marshal 20,000 men, but that they would not be properly equipped and have almost no artillery. Officials here do not consider him a menace to Carranza, as they doubt Diaz's ability to get ammunition and supplies. They admit, however, that an organized revolution among the hills of Southern Mexico, where a small band might hold out against vastly superior forces, would further complicate the already complex situation confronting the de facto President.

## Death of Robert E. Lee.

NEW ORLEANS, February 28.—Robert E. Lee, prominent in labor and Democratic political circles, died here to-day of heart trouble. He was fifty-three years old, and served eight terms as president of the Central Trades and Labor Council of New Orleans.

## FRESH TROOPS THROWN INTO FIGHT UNCEASINGLY

Impetus of Assaulting German  
Forces Not Diminished by Fur-  
ious Artillery Fire.

## CLASH MURDEROUS TO BOTH REGIMENTS WHICH OCCUPIED FORT DOUAMONT CUT OFF AND SUR- ROUNDED BY FRENCH, WITH ATTACK- ING ARMIES RECOILING SLIGHTLY.

PARIS, February 27 (delayed).—"A frightful massacre," is how Germans taken prisoner in the battle of Verdun describe the effect of the French artillery, machine-gun and rifle fire. But the impetus of the assaulting forces was not diminished thereby during the first four days, because fresh troops were thrown into the battle unceasingly.

"An advance, no matter what the losses may be," was the order given to the German troops before the attack. This is verified by documents found on one of the captured officers. The most critical time in the six days' action was when the Germans gained a footing in Fort Douaumont. Any hesitation on the part of the defenders would have been disastrous. The Germans redoubled their efforts to take advantage of any confusion, but the French immediately began a counter-offensive.

French infantry advanced at double-quick time to the trumpet charge and leaped at the first ranks of the Germans with irresistible fury. The clash was murderous to both sides. The thinned French ranks were not to be denied, but went on to the second German wing, while re-enforcements were hurried to their support. The German lines wavered first, then were driven out of the ruins of the fort.

## FIERY ARTILLERY DUEL ADDS TO THE CARNAGE

A cry of triumph went up all along the French line, and the ardor of the counterattack was redoubled. In the meantime, an artillery duel, surpassing in intensity any previous action of the war, added to the carnage.

The battle now seems to have reached a critical point. The assaulting forces have recoiled slightly in the region of Douaumont, leaving the regiments which occupied the fort cut off and surrounded by French troops. The attacks upon the French left at Pepper Hill (Cote-du-Poivre) seemed to have failed completely. However, attacks made repeatedly with such heavy masses as the Germans are constantly bringing up, it is admitted by military authorities, are always likely to make further gains, provided the officers are willing to pay the price in human life.

There is no exaggerated optimism to be found in military circles here, but the check of the Germans attacking in such formidable numbers is regarded by them as one of the great achievements of the war, and it is generally held that events have taken a turn quite favorable to the French arms in the last twenty-four hours.

## DEMOCRATS GATHERING

Advance Guard of Delegates to New  
York State Convention Arriv-  
ing at Syracuse.

SYRACUSE, N. Y., February 28.—The advance guard of delegates to the Democratic State Convention, which will be held here on Wednesday, arrived here to-night. Charles F. Murphy, leader of Tammany Hall, is expected early to-morrow.

The convention is to name four delegates at large and four alternates to the national convention at St. Louis and recommend a candidate for national commander. It is expected that Norman E. Mack, of Buffalo, who has served sixteen years.

Delegates who arrived to-night were provided with buttons bearing a picture of President Wilson and the words "Safety First."

## GERMANS CLAIM FRESH ADVANCES AROUND VERDUN

French Report That Attacks  
of Infantry Have Been  
Checked.

FORT DOUAMONT IN HANDS  
OF TEUTONS. BUT IN RUINS

Around This Position Most Des-  
perate Fighting of Battle  
Is in Progress.

## FIERCE ARTILLERY DUELS

Kaiser's Armies Inaugurate Important  
Movement in Cham-  
pagne District.

The tide of battle around Verdun apparently has not turned in favor of either side. While the Germans claim further advances, the French are equally emphatic in their assertion that they checked the attacks of the masses of the German infantry sent against them.

Fort Douaumont has fallen to the Germans, but it is reported to be in ruins. Around this position the most desperate fighting of the battle has been going on since Friday. Here French counterattacks were delivered with such crushing force that some of the German detachments were driven back, and one regiment is almost encircled. To the west of this fort, in a hard-to-hold encounter, the French have ejected the Germans from a small redoubt which they had captured.

Throughout the entire sector of Verdun, except on the western bank of the Meuse River, where the German bombardment has slackened somewhat, the artillery duels are still of vast proportions. To the southeast, the French at Frenes, in the Woëvre region, have not done much. The German attacks against that town, but the Germans have inaugurated an important movement in the Champagne district, where by a surprise attack they succeeded in entering French advanced positions of a supporting trench over a front of nearly a mile, capturing more than 1,000 men.

## REPORTS OF REVERIES UNRELIABLE

Notwithstanding the fresh reserves the French have thrown into the fray at Fort Douaumont, the German War Office declares that their efforts have been fruitless, and that the Germans have advanced their lines towards Bras and Vacherauville. It also is claimed that the Germans have entirely expelled the French from the Meuse Peninsula, southward from Samogneux and west of Vacherauville.

On the Russian front, around Friedland and Hlouk, there has been heavy artillery, machine gun and rifle fire. In Galicia, the Russians repulsed an attempt by the Austro-Hungarians to capture trenches on the middle Stripa River.

The Austrians, according to Vienna, have put down with sanguinary losses an Italian attack against positions on both sides of Monte San Michele and east of Azzo, and also destroyed an Italian trench on the Gobiata bridgehead.

The Russians are still operating successfully against the Turks who fled from Erzerum and the Ottoman forces in the Persian battle zone. Farther south, in Mesopotamia, a bombardment by the British of a Turkish camp on the left bank of the Tigris River resulted in heavy casualties to the Turks.

Further details of the fighting between British and tribesmen offereed by Turkey in Western Egypt show that the leader of the tribesmen, Nuri Bey, a brother of the Turkish War Minister, was killed and his principal subordinate wounded, and that the tribesmen left large numbers of dead and wounded on the field as their main force fled.

## STRUGGLE ON FRONT OF NEARLY 100 MILES

(Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.)  
LONDON, February 28.—The battle of Verdun, entering its ninth day, has extended into a fearful struggle on a front of almost 100 miles.

The Germans, on the offensive at all points, are launching attacks upon the great fortress in a tremendous encircling movement, while forty miles to the west, but as a part of the same general action, they have opened a new drive in Champagne.

On both sides of the road from Somme-Py to Souain, over the blood-drenched fields where last autumn the French made their great smash, the Teutons have blasted their way forward for a gain of 1,600 yards. They have taken more than 1,000 French prisoners and nine machine guns.

Some critics believe that the new attacks in Champagne herald a tremendous push on the entire front of more than 300 miles from the sea to Alsace.

About Verdun the Germans are launching terrible attacks from the St. Mihiel salient on the south as far as the eastern bank of the Meuse, north of the great fortress. West of the Meuse, extending to the region of Malancourt, a terrific artillery duel is raging.

The fiercest struggle is being waged around Fort Douaumont, first of the French outer defenses to fall.

Premier Briand, in the lobby of the French Chamber of Deputies, announced on Saturday, according to delayed dispatches, that Douaumont is again in the hands of the French. He said the fighting was going on with tremendous violence.

The latest French War Office statements, including that issued at midnight, ignore this claim. The French